



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Testing requirements for contacts and exposed persons

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Background

This document describes the 'Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons' regarding the types of COVID-19 tests for cohorts covered by the ***Pandemic (Quarantine Isolation and Testing) Order***.

This document may be amended from time to time by the Secretary of the Department of Health.

Testing Requirements

Classification	Mandatory Testing Requirements
Close contact	<p>A close contact with COVID-19 symptoms must undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) upon symptom onset. Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, a close contact must notify the Department of Health** of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case). If the result is negative, the close contact must undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) on the sixth day of the self-quarantine period.</p> <p>A close contact without COVID-19 symptoms must undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) on the first and sixth day from when they are required to self-quarantine. Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, a close contact must notify the Department of Health** of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> <p>If the close contact is unable to access a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT), they must undertake a COVID-19 PCR test instead.</p> <p>It is recommended that a close contact undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) on three other days between the first and sixth day of self-quarantine.</p> <p><i>Note: this should be in accordance with the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure.</i></p>
Exposed person (workplace contact)	<p>An exposed person must undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) or a COVID-19 PCR test if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and self-quarantine until they receive a negative result, or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, an exposed person must notify the Department of Health** of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p>
Social contact	<p>A social contact must undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) or a COVID-19 PCR test if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and self-quarantine until they are notified of a negative result, or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.</p>

	<p>Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, a social contact must notify the Department of Health** of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p>
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Classification	Recommended Testing
<p>Exposed person (workplace contact)</p>	<p>An exposed person without COVID-19 symptoms is strongly recommended to undertake daily COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) for five days following notification that they are an exposed person.</p> <p>Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, an exposed person must notify the Department of Health** of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> <p>.</p> <p><i>Note: this is in accordance with the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure.</i></p>
<p>Social contact</p>	<p>A social contact without COVID-19 symptoms is strongly recommended to undertake daily COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) for five days following notification that they are a social contact.</p> <p>Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, a social contact must notify the Department of Health** of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> <p><i>Note: this is in accordance with the COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure.</i></p>
<p>Symptomatic person in the community or a workplace (not a close contact, exposed person or social contact)</p>	<p>A symptomatic person in the community or a workplace (who is not a close contact, exposed person or social contact) who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should undertake a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) or a COVID-19 PCR test as soon as possible after symptom onset, and self-quarantine until they receive a negative result or for seven days post-test, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>Should the COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, they must notify the Department of Health** of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p>
<p>Asymptomatic person in the community (not a close contact, exposed person or social contact)</p>	<p>Should a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) return a positive result, an asymptomatic person in the community must notify the Department of Health** of the result as soon as possible (if positive, the person becomes a probable case).</p> <p>It is recommended for an asymptomatic person in the community to confirm a positive COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) with a COVID-19 PCR test.</p>

*Definitions (in bold) can be found in the ***Pandemic (Quarantine, Isolation and Testing) Order***.

The **COVID-19 rapid antigen test procedure** means if a person completed a COVID-19 rapid antigen test:

- the person must undertake a second **COVID-19 rapid antigen test** as soon as possible if the person receives an invalid test result from the first **COVID-19 rapid antigen test**, such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is a negative test result; and
- if the result of the second **COVID-19 rapid antigen test** is invalid such that it is not possible to conclude that the result is negative, the person must complete a **COVID-19 PCR test** within 24 hours and remain in **self-quarantine** until the person receives a negative test result.

**The Department of Health can be notified via the COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form online at <https://dhvicgovau.powerappsportals.com/rapid-antigen-test> or call centre on 1800 675 398.